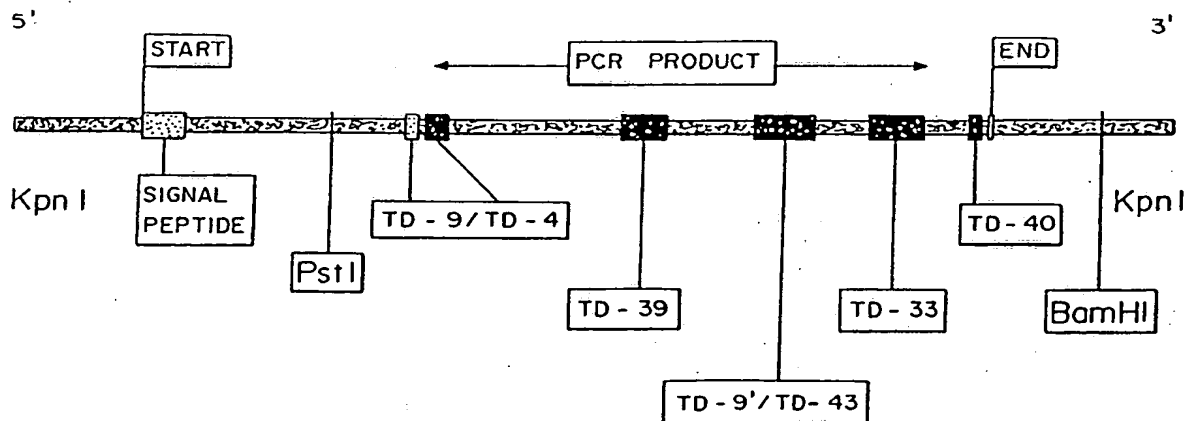


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## (57) Abstract

The cloning of the heparinase gene from *Flavobacterium Heparinum* using the polymerase chain reaction is described. The Open Reading Frame (ORF) corresponded to 1152 base pairs encoding a precursor protein of MW 43,800 daltons. The amino acid sequence reveals a 20-residue leader peptide. The gene was expressed in two expression systems in *E. Coli*.

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HEPARINASE GENE FROM *FLAVOBACTERIUM HEPARINUM*

## Background of the Invention

This invention is generally in the area of heparinases and is specifically directed to the gene encoding heparinase I, expressed in *Flavobacterium heparinum*.

The United States government has rights in this invention by virtue of grant number 25810 from the National Institutes of Health.

Heparin is an anticoagulant that activates serine protease inhibitors (serpins), which play a key role in the blood clotting cascade, as described by Damus et al., *Nature* 246:355-357 (1973). According to Lindahl et al., *Trends Biochem. Sci.* 11:221-225 (1986), heparin is the most acidic natural polymer known to date. It consists of a major 1,4-linked disaccharide repeating unit of D-uronic acid 1,4- $\beta$ -D-glucosamine, and has an average of four negative charges (three sulfate groups and one carboxylate group) per monosaccharide unit. Heparin is both polydisperse, having an average molecular weight between 3,000 and 45,000 daltons, and heterogenous due to partial epimerization of D-glucuronic acid to L-iduronic acid and incomplete N- and O- sulfation, as reported by Kusche et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 77:6551-6555 (1980) and Comper, *Polymer Monograph* 7, 1981.

In addition, proteoglycans like heparin have a wide range of biological influences, including in blood chemistry, growth factor interaction and wound healing, interaction with basic structural proteins in the extracellular matrix and in cellular mediated immune responses. The basic nature of protein/peptide heparin/complex carbohydrate interaction is important. Although heparin seems fairly heterogenous, it is now quite clear that different heparin fractions exhibit distinct and unique properties indicating some

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compositional and possibly structural specificity for its biological role, as reviewed by Cardin, A. D. and H. J. R. Weintraub, *Arteriosclerosis* 9, 21-32 (1989).

Heparinase, also referred to as heparin lyase, is the only known enzyme capable of degrading heparin that has been extensively characterized. It has been designated EC 4.2.2.7 by the Enzyme Commission. According to Galliher, et al., *Eur. J. Appl. Microbiol.* 15:252 (1982), the enzyme is a polysaccharide lyase found in the periplasmic space of *Flavobacterium heparinum*, a Gram-negative soil isolate. *F. heparinum* utilizes heparin as its sole source of carbon and nitrogen, as described by Hoving and Linker, *J. Biol. Chem.* 245:6170 (1970). Heparinase is the initial enzyme of heparin catabolism. Although constitutively expressed in low amounts, Galliher, et al., *App. Environ. Microbiol.* 41:360 (1981), have discovered that enzyme expression is induced by heparin and reversibly repressed by sulfate in the medium. Lindhardt, et al., *Appl. Biochem. Biotechnol.* 9:41 (1984), have shown that heparinase is inhibited by other polyanionic polysaccharides.

Heparinase has been purified by standard chromatographic techniques and its enzymatic properties characterized extensively, as described by scientists including Yang, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 260:1849 (1985). The enzyme is a 44,000 dalton monomeric protein with a pI of approximately 9.

Heparinase acts as an eliminase, leaving behind an unsaturated double bond at the non-reducing end group. This double bond is exploited in an assay for heparinase activity by the absorbance of the unsaturated product at 232 nm. The enzyme is marginally tolerant to salts and is very specific for heparin, having a  $K_d$  of 30 nM. Heparinase has an

activation energy of 4.5 kcal/mol, a  $k_m$  of  $8 \times 10^{-6}$  and a  $V_{max}$  of  $4 \times 10^{-7}$  M/min.

Heparin is often used in surgery to prevent blood clotting and to increase the compatibility of extracorporeal devices such as heart-lung and kidney dialysis machines. The enzymatic degradation of heparin by heparinase is sufficient to eliminate the anticoagulation properties of heparin in surgery. As described by Langer, et al. in *Biomaterials: Inter-facial Phenomenon and Applications*, Adv. in Chem. Symposium Series, Chap. 13, pp. 493-509 (1982), this property has led to the use of heparinase as an immobilized bioreactor in conjunction with heart-lung or kidney dialysis machines to deheparinize blood. Commercial application of the heparinase bioreactor is pending clinical trials.

A principal problem in the use of the heparinase bioreactor is the availability of sufficient amounts of pure heparinase to be immobilized onto a surface. This is primarily because the amount of heparinase constitutively expressed in *F. heparinum* is very low. Inducing expression of heparinase in *F. heparinum* with heparin is very expensive due to the amounts of heparin needed and the size of the fermentation to produce reasonable amounts of heparinase for any practical applications.

Cloning and expression of the heparinase gene is important in several ways. First, the only enzyme cloned and characterized to date which acts to depolymerise proteoglycans is heparinase. Second, heparin is the only anticoagulant commonly used in surgery so deheparinizing blood is an important medical problem. Moreover, heparinase catalyzed degradation of heparin into lower molecular weight heparin molecules can be used to yield products with specific anticoagulant activity, as discussed by

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Rosenfeld and Danishefsky, *Biochem. J.* 237:639-646 (1986).

Designing recombinant heparinases with altered activitie(s) would be interesting academically, as well as commercially. For example, heparinase can be used to deheparinize blood because the enzyme cleaves right at the AT-III binding oligomer. On the other hand, by further understanding the mechanism of the enzyme binding and depolymerizing heparin, recombinant heparinases with altered specificity could be designed, i.e. an AT-III binding heparin fragment not cleaved by the recombinant enzyme. This would be a very useful way of generating an AT-III binding heparin oligosaccharide, which currently is not available in large amounts, for use as an anticoagulant. Producing heparinases which could help and or improve in the enzyme purification or immobilization would also be quite valuable. For example, a tag (a particular peptide sequence) could be added at a region which does not alter the activity of the enzyme but makes the immobilization chemistry very efficient. This would help in improving enzyme loading onto the immobilization matrix.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide the gene encoding heparinase and a system for expression to facilitate the production of large amounts of heparinase.

It is another object of the present invention to provide methods and means for modifying the gene to produce recombinant heparinases having altered specificity and other desirable properties.

It is another object of the present invention to provide pure heparinase for use in the area of cytokine-proteoglycan interactions, as a tool or diagnostic as exemplified by fibroblast growth factor - heparin interactions.

### Summary of the Invention

The cloning of the heparinase gene from *Flavobacterium Heparinum* using the polymerase chain reaction is described. Two degenerate oligonucleotides, based on amino acid sequence derived from tryptic peptides of purified heparinase were used in the PCR with *Flavobacterium* genomic DNA as the template to generate a 600 base pairs probe. This probe was used to screen a pUC 18 *Flavobacterium* genomic library. The Open Reading Frame (ORF) corresponded to 1152 base pairs encoding a precursor protein of MW 43,800 daltons. Eleven different tryptic peptides (approximately 48% of the total amino acids) mapped into the ORF. The amino acid sequence reveals a 20-residue leader peptide.

Heparinase can be expressed from the gene. Additionally, the gene can be modified to produce heparinase with altered enzymatic activity, specificity, or binding properties. The sequence can also be used as a probe in the isolation of genes encoding other related enzymes.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of the PCR products Y1:C and D:C which are 600 and 160 basepairs, respectively. The 600 basepair PCR product was used as a template with D and C as primers to generate the 160 basepair D:C product.

Figure 2 is the restriction map of the genomic DNA pUC 18 plasmid, pRS.HEP51, having an insert containing the heparinase gene. The plasmid is 5631 bases long and has approximately 2300 bases of insert. The heparinase gene is in the *Kpn I*-*KpnI* fragment.

Figure 3 is a *KpnI*-*KpnI* fragment map showing the heparinase gene structure with the different tryptic peptides mapping into the open reading frame. Six

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different peptides mapped into the heparinase gene translation region.

#### Detailed Description of the Invention

The gene encoding heparinase in *F. heparinum* has been cloned. The nucleotide and amino acid sequences are shown below:

The following sequence (Sequence No. 1, base pairs 1 to 172, inclusive) encodes a leader peptide:

CCTTT TGGGA GCAAA GGCAG AACCA TCTCC GAACA AAGGC AGAAC  
 CAGCC TGTAACACAGA CAGCA ATTCA TCCGC TTTCA ACCAA AGTGA  
 AAGCA TTAA TACAA TACCA GAATG TCGCA TTTCC CTTTC AGCGT  
 ACTTT TTGGG TAAAT AACCA ATAAA AACTA AAGAC GG

The following sequence (Sequence No. 1, base pairs 173 to 1379, inclusive) encodes the heparinase:

ATG AAA AAA CAA ATT CTA TAT CTG ATT GTA CTT CAG CAA  
 CTG TTC CTC TGT TCG GCT TAC GCC CAG CAA AAA AAA TCC  
 GGT AAC ATC CCT TAC CGG GTA AAT GTG CAG GCC GAC AGT  
 GCT AAG CAG AAG GCG ATT ATT GAC AAC AAA TGG GTG GCA  
 GTA GGC ATC AAT AAA CCT TAT GCA TTA CAA TAT GAC GAT  
 AAA CTG CGC TTT AAT GGA AAA CCA TCC TAT CGC TTT GAG  
 CTT AAA GCC GAA GAC AAT TCG CTT GAA GGT TAT GCT GCA  
 GGA GAA ACA AAG GGC CGT ACA GAA TTG TCG TAC AGC TAT  
 GCA ACC ACC AAT GAT TTT AAG AAA TTT CCC CCA AGC GTA  
 TAC CAA AAT GCG CAA AAG CTA AAA ACC GTT TAT CAT TAC  
 GGC AAA GGG ATT TGT GAA CAG GGG AGC TCC CGC AGC TAT  
 ACC TTT TCA GTG TAC ATA CCC TCC TCC TTC CCC GAC AAT  
 GCG ACT ACT ATT TTT GCC CAA TGG CAT GGT GCA CCC AGC  
 AGA ACG CTT GTA GCT ACA CCA GAG GGA GAA ATT AAA ACA  
 CTG AGC ATA GAA GAG TTT TTG GCC TTA TAC GAC CGC ATG  
 ATC TTC AAA AAA AAT ATC GCC CAT GAT AAA GTT GAA AAA  
 AAA GAT AAG GAC GGA AAA ATT ACT TAT GTA GCC GGA AAG  
 CCA AAT GGC TGG AAG GTA GAA CAA GGT GGT TAT CCC ACG  
 CTG GCC TTT GGT TTT TCT AAA GGG TAT TTT TAC ATC AAG  
 GCA AAC TCC GAC CGG CAG TGG CTT ACC GAC AAA GCC GAC  
 CGT AAC AAT GCC AAT CCC GAG AAT AGT GAA GTA ATG AAG  
 CCC TAT TCC TCG GAA TAC AAA ACT TCA ACC ATT GCC TAT



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AAA ATG CCC TTT GCC CAG TTC CCT AAA GAT TGC TGG ATT  
ACT TTT GAT GTC GCC ATA GAC TGG ACG AAA TAT GGA AAA  
GAG GCC AAT ACA ATT TTG AAA CCC GGT AAG CTG GAT GTG  
ATG ATG ACT TAT ACC AAG AAT AAG AAA CCA CAA AAA GCG  
CAT ATC GTA AAC CAG CAG GAA ATC CTG ATC GGA CGT AAC  
GAT GAC GAT GGC TAT TAC TTC AAA TTT GGA ATT TAC AGG  
GTC GGT AAC AGC ACG GTC CCG GTT ACT TAT AAC CTG AGC  
GGG TAC AGC GAA ACT GCC AGA TAG (stop codon)

The following is the amino acid sequence (Sequence No. 2) of heparinase:

Met Lys Lys Gln Ile Leu Tyr Leu Ile Val Leu Gln Gln  
Leu Phe Leu Cys Ser Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Lys Lys Ser  
Gly Asn Ile Pro Tyr Arg Val Asn Val Gln Ala Asp Ser  
Ala Lys Gln Lys Ala Ile Ile Asp Asn Lys Trp Val Ala  
Val Gly Ile Asn Lys Pro Tyr Ala Leu Gln Tyr Asp Asp  
Lys Leu Arg Phe Asn Gly Lys Pro Ser Tyr Arg Phe Glu  
Leu Lys Ala Glu Asp Asn Ser Leu Glu Gly Tyr Ala Ala  
Gly Glu Thr Lys Gly Arg Thr Glu Leu Ser Tyr Ser Tyr  
Ala Thr Thr Asn Asp Phe Lys Lys Phe Pro Pro Ser Val  
Tyr Gln Asn Ala Gln Lys Leu Lys Thr Val Tyr His Tyr  
Gly Lys Gly Ile Cys Glu Gln Gly Ser Ser Arg Ser Tyr  
Thr Phe Ser Val Tyr Ile Pro Ser Ser Phe Pro Asp Asn  
Ala Thr Thr Ile Phe Ala Gln Trp His Gly Ala Pro Ser  
Arg Thr Leu Val Ala Thr Pro Glu Gly Glu Ile Lys Thr  
Leu Ser Ile Glu Glu Phe Leu Ala Leu Tyr Asp Arg Met  
Ile Phe Lys Lys Asn Ile Ala His Asp Lys Val Glu Lys  
Lys Asp Lys Asp Gly Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Gly Lys  
Pro Asn Gly Trp Lys Val Glu Gln Gly Gly Tyr Pro Thr  
Leu Ala Phe Gly Phe Ser Lys Gly Tyr Phe Tyr Ile Lys  
Ala Asn Ser Asp Arg Gln Trp Leu Thr Asp Lys Ala Asp  
Arg Asn Asn Ala Asn Pro Glu Asn Ser Glu Val Met Lys  
Pro Tyr Ser Ser Glu Tyr Lys Thr Ser Thr Ile Ala Tyr  
Lys Met Pro Phe Ala Gln Phe Pro Lys Asp Cys Trp Ile  
Thr Phe Asp Val Ala Ile Asp Trp Thr Lys Tyr Gly Lys  
Glu Ala Asn Thr Ile Leu Lys Pro Gly Lys Leu Asp Val  
Met Met Thr Tyr Thr Lys Asn Lys Lys Pro Gln Lys Ala

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His Ile Val Asn Gln Gln Glu Ile Leu Ile Gly Arg Asn  
Asp Asp Asp Gly Tyr Tyr Phe Lys Phe Gly Ile Tyr Arg  
Val Gly Asn Ser Thr Val Pro Val Thr Tyr Asn Leu Ser  
Gly Tyr Ser Glu Thr Ala Arg.

Example 1: **Isolation and analysis of CDNA  
encoding heparinase in *F. heparinum*.**

Because preliminary cloning attempts by others utilizing 1) antibody screening, 2) screening for functionally active heparinase in *E.coli* and 3) screening for the heparinase gene using probes derived from protein sequences regenerated by cyanogen bromine (CNBr) chemical digest were unsuccessful, the polymerase chain reaction was used to clone the heparinase gene. The reverse phase purified heparinase was reduced, alkylated and digested with trypsin to obtain approximately 60 peptide peaks which were separated and collected by reverse phase HPLC monitored at 210 nm and at 277 nm (for tyrosine and tryptophan), as described below.

#### Tryptic Digest and Protein Sequence Analyses

Heparinase was purified as described by Dietrich, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 248:6408 (1973), Otatani et al., *Carbohydr. Res.* 88:291 (1981), and Yang et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 260:1849 (1985), which are incorporated by reference herein. A final purification step was carried out by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) using a reverse phase column that exploits the hydrophobic residues of the protein. A nanomole (approximately 45  $\mu$ g) of the purified enzyme was denatured in 50  $\mu$ l of an 8 M urea, 0.4 M ammonium carbonate solution, reduced with 5 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) at 50°C, cooled to room temperature, and alkylated with 10 mM iodoacetamide for 15 minutes in the dark. The total reaction volume was 200  $\mu$ l. To this reaction mixture, 1/25th w/w of trypsin was added and digestion carried out at 37°C

for 24 hour. The reaction was terminated by heating the sample at 65°C for 2 minutes. The digest was separated by reverse phase HPLC using a gradient of 0 to 80% acetonitrile. The tryptic peptides were monitored at 210 and 277 nm.

The tryptic peaks were collected in Eppendorff tubes. Based on the homogeneity of the peptide peak, eight different peaks were sequenced using an Applied Biosystems sequencer, model 477, with an on-line model 120 PTH amino acid analyzer located in the Biopolymers lab, Center for Cancer Research, MIT. The sequences are set forth in Table I below. The designation (K,R) is used in Table I to indicate that trypsin cuts at either lysine or arginine residues. The asterisks in Table I represent amino acids that could not be determined. The peptide designated td Lx is the longest peptide sequenced having 38 residues. Native heparinase was also sequenced to determine the N-terminus amino acids.

Table I: Sequences of Tryptic Peptides of Heparinase

| <u>Peptide</u> | <u>Amino Acid Sequence</u>   |
|----------------|--|
| td 04          | (K, R) G I C E Q G S S R   |
| td 09          | (K, R) T V Y H Y G K   |
| td 09'         | (K, R) T S T I A Y K   |
| td 21          | (K, R) F G I Y R   |
| td 33          | (K, R) A D I V N Q Q E I L I G R D D *<br>G Y Y F K                          |
| td 39          | (K, R) I T Y V A G K P N G N K V E Q G<br>G Y P T L A F *                    |
| td 43          | (K, R) M P F A Q F P K D C W I T F D V<br>A I D * T K                        |
| td 40          | (K, R) N L S G Y S E T A R   |
| tdm4           | K N I A H D K V E K K  |
| td 72          | K T L S I E E F L A L Y D R  |
| td Lx          | R S Y T F S V Y I P S S F P D N A T T I<br>F A W H G A P S R T L V T P E I K |

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Three sets of primers were designed and synthesized, as shown in Table II. Primers were synthesized with an Applied Biosystems sequencer, model 477, with an on-line model 120 PTH amino acid analyzer located in the Biopolymers lab, Center for Cancer Research, MIT. These primer sets were used in the PCR amplification system for cloning the heparinase gene. The symbol "I" represents the nucleotide inosine. The amino acids of each peptide, depicted in boldface type, represent the residues chosen for the primer design. Two different sets of primers were constructed for tryptic peptide 33 to reduce the degree of inosine substitution at the 3' end of the primer.

**Table II: Heparinase Primer Design**Peptide: td 04

## Amino Acid Sequence:

K G I C E Q G S S R

## primers:

y1 5'- AAA GGI AT(T/C/A) TG(T/C) GA(A/G)  
CA(A/G) GG -3'

y2 5'- CC (C/T)TG (C/T)TC (G/A)CA (T/G/A)AT  
ICC TTT -3'

Peptide: td 43

## Amino Acid Sequence:

(K, R) M P F A Q F P K D E W I T F C V  
A I D \* T K

## primers:

D 5'- ATG CCI TT(T/C) GCI CA(A/G) TT(T/C) CCI  
AA(A/G) GA(T/C) GA -3'

E 3'- TAC GGI AA(A/G) CGI GT(T/C) AA(A/G) GGI  
TT(T/C) CT(A/G) CT -5'

Peptide: td 33

## Amino Acid Sequence:

(K, R) A D I V N Q Q E I L I G R D D \* G Y Y F K A

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primers:

- A     5'- ATI AA(T/C) CA(A/G) GA(A/G)ATI (C/T)TI  
         AT(T/C/A) GG -3'
- B     5'- CCIATIA(G/A) IAT (T/C)TC (T/C)TG (T/C)TG  
         (A/G)TT ICA (A/C)AT
- C     5'- CCIATIA(G/A) IAT (T/C)TC (T/CTG (T/C)TG  
         (A/G)TT ICA (T/G)AT -31

Of the six RHPLC peaks initially sequenced (Table I), three were chosen for primer design. Three sets of primers were designed (Table II). The PCR product of the combination the primers td43 and td33 was about 150 base pairs in length. The combination of td4 and td33 primers were about 600 base pairs. Primer td43 was 5' to primer td33 and primer td4 was 5' to td43 primer. Using the PCR product of td4 and td33 as a template and td43 and td4 as primers the predicted 150 base pair product was obtained confirming that td43 was between td4 and td33.

The 600 basepair product shown in Figure 1 represents about 51% of the approximated total 1170 base pairs for the heparinase gene, assuming 43,000 dalton for heparinase and a 110 dalton average amino acid with a molecular weight corresponding to about 390 amino acids times three which is 1170 bases.

The 600 base pair probe was chosen for screening a pUC 18 library by high stringency colony hybridization. Two positive clones were identified which were carried through for three rounds of colony purification.

#### Genomic DNA, RNA, and Plasmid Library

The *F. heparinum* genomic DNA was isolated by the A.S.A.P.<sup>™</sup> kit (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN) with the following modifications. The DNA was desalted over a Sephadex<sup>™</sup> G-50 column (Nick column, Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ) and concentrated using a Centricon<sup>™</sup> P-30 (Amicon Division, Beverly, MA) to a final volume of 100  $\mu$ l. From  $1 \times 10^9$  cells, 105-115 g of DNA typically were obtained. Total cellular mRNA was isolated using the

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guanidine thiocyanate procedure set forth in the Promega technical information publication TB 087 12/89, Promega Corp., Madison, WI 53711. A pUC 18 plasmid was obtained from Dr. A.J. Sinskey, of the Department of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The library was constructed using the *F. heparinum* genomic DNA. The genomic DNA was sonicated and modified by adding *EcoRI* linkers and then ligated to the pUC 18 vector. DH5a was transformed with the pUC 18 genomic library.

#### Amplification of the PCR Product

Amplification of the heparinase tryptic digest primers was carried out in a 25 l reaction volume containing 50 mM KCl, 10 mM Tris HCl (pH 8.3), 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and 0.01% gelatin plus the four deoxyribose nucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs) at 200 M, using 0.5 M primer and 3 l of the genomic DNA as the template, 2.5 units of the Taq polymerase (Cetus Corp., Emeryville, CA) and 25 l of mineral oil. The samples were placed on an automated heating block (DNA thermal cycler, Perkin Elmer Corp., Norwalk, CT) programmed for step cycles of temperatures 92°C (2 minutes), 50°C (1 minute) and 72°C (3 minutes). This cycle was repeated 35 times. The final cycle had a 72°C 10 minute extension. The PCR products were analyzed on a 0.8% agarose gel containing 0.6 µg/ml ethidium bromide. The control reaction was provided by the Cetus kit.

#### Screening of the *Flavobacterium heparinum* pUC 18 genomic library

The pUC 18 library was titered to give approximately 1500 colonies to be tested by the probe generated by PCR. Each plate had approximately 100 colonies which were grown directly on nitrocellulose, to an appropriate small size, and then duplicated to be grown further overnight.

The PCR probe was labelled using the Random Hexanucleotide™ kit (RHN) (IBI Biochemicals Ltd.) which is described briefly as follows. One microgram DNA from

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the PCR product run was isolated from a low melt agarose gel, denatured by boiling at 95°C for 10 minutes, and then chilled on ice. To the denatured DNA were added 10 mM dNTPs (dATP, dGTP, dCTP, dTTP), random hexanucleotides in the reaction buffer, and 50  $\mu$ Ci of  $^{32}$ PdCTP(3000 Ci/mmol). The reaction was carried with Klenow for 30 minutes at 37°C and terminated using 0.2 M EDTA. Following the labelling reaction, the labelled probe was purified from the free nucleotide by using a Sephadex G-50 column (Nick Column, Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ). The colonies were screened with the labelled probe using standard colony hybridization procedures as described by Maniatis et al., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, incorporated herein by reference.

Two positive clones were isolated and the plasmids tested for their ability to generate the 600 basepair PCR product. Both of the clones tested positive and were further characterized by restriction mapping. Clone pRS Hep 51 is a 2.3 kb insert in pUC 18 (shown in Figure 2) with a *Kpn*-*Kpn* fragment of about 1.6 kb. This fragment was a positive template for generating a 600 basepair PCR product. The *Kpn*I-*Kpn*I fragment of pRS 51 was subcloned into M13 and sequenced.

#### DNA Sequencing

DNA sequencing was performed using phage M13 and employing the dideoxyadenosine 5'-alpha- $^{35}$ S-triphosphate and Sequenase (US Biochemical Corp, Cleveland, OH) as described by the manufacturer. The sequence data was obtained using successive nested deletions in M13 using T4 DNA polymerase as per Cyclone I Biosystems (International Biotechnologies Inc., New Haven, CT) or sequenced using synthetic oligonucleotide primers.

The sequence reveals a single, continuous open reading frame (ORF) of 1152 basepairs corresponding to

384 amino acids and a leader sequence of about 21 amino acids. The PCR product spans from 566 to 1216 bases from the start site and corresponds to about 57% of the total gene.

Initially six different tryptic peptides mapped into the ORF. Subsequently, five other peptides were sequenced for structural studies and all of them mapped into the ORF, for a total of about 48% of the total 367 amino acids. There are three cysteines in all, one associated with the signal peptide. The signal peptide is typical of prokaryotic sequences, having a charged N-terminal region, a core hydrophobic region and a cleavage region with a standard Ala.xxx.Ala site for cleavage.

**Example 2: Expression of the heparinase gene in *E. coli*.**

Two different expression systems were selected for the expression of heparinase in *E. coli*: the Omp A expression system and the pKK hyper-expression system. The plasmid designs for both expression systems are shown in Table III.

30 Omp A expression system

The Omp A expression system secretes the protein of interest into the periplasmic space, as directed by the Omp A signal sequence, described by Ghayeb, et al., *EMBO J.* 3:2437 (1984), incorporated herein by reference. This system was chosen since heparinase is naturally expressed into the periplasmic space of *F. heparinum*. The plasmid is under the control of the *lac* repressor and is induced by the addition of IPTG (isopropyl- $\beta$ -D thiogalactoside) to the medium. The plasmid was inserted in the pIN-III Omp A-3 vector.

The heparinase insert was generated by PCR utilizing the N terminal and the C terminal sequences of heparinase with two appropriate restriction sites suitable for cloning into the *EcoRI*-*BamHI* sites. Two primers were constructed as shown in Table II. The insert was amplified by 5 cycles of PCR and ligated to



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the Omp A pIN vector with the *E. coli* periplasmic leader sequence. DH5 $\alpha$  was transformed and expression was induced with 1 mM IPTG for 3-5 hours.

As shown in Table III, the construct of the Omp A expression system results in two extra amino acids at the amino terminal of the heparinase gene, Gly and Ile. The heparinase sequence begins with a Gln.

#### The pKK expression system

The pKK expression system is used for over-expression of proteins in accordance with the methods of Brosius and Holy, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 81: 6929 (1984) and Jaffe et al., *Biochem.* 27:1869 (1988), incorporated by reference herein. This system contains a strong tac promotor which, in appropriate hosts, is regulated by the lac repressor and induced by the addition of IPTG, as in the Omp A system. The plasmid pKK223-3 has a pUC 8 multiple cloning site and a strong rrnB ribosomal terminator immediately following the tac promotor. The ribosomal binding site of the plasmid was utilized by cloning the heparinase gene into a *Sma*I site, which is about 12 bases from the start codon ATG. Like the Omp A construction, the heparinase insert is obtained by PCR with *Sma*I and *Hind*III restriction sites at the N and the C terminals of the protein. As shown in Table III, the native heparinase leader sequence was used for over-production into the periplasm.

Periplasmic proteins of *E. coli* were isolated by osmotic shock. Briefly, 1.5 ml of cells were centrifuged after induction and washed with 10 mM Tris pH 7.5. The cells were then suspended in 20% sucrose in 10 mM Tris pH 7.5 and 5  $\mu$ l of 0.5 M EDTA. After a five minute incubation on ice, the cells were centrifuged and osmotically shocked by adding approximately 150  $\mu$ l water. The periplasmic extract was used to determine enzyme activity. Heparinase activity was determined by monitoring the wavelength at 232 nm and by the Azure A

methods of Bernstein et al., *Methods of Immunology* 137:515 (1988), incorporated herein by reference.

The periplasmic extracts were analyzed by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) using the method of Laemmli, *Nature* 227:690 (1974) and stained using Coumassie blue. In addition, a Western blot assay was performed to confirm the presence of heparinase using a heparinase monoclonal antibody. Heparinase was electrophoretically transferred from the SDS-PAGE gel onto nitrocellulose using the method of Gershoni and Palade, *Analytical Biochem.* 131:1 (1983), and then incubated with the monoclonal antibody. This antibody was stained using a secondary antibody conjugated to horseradish peroxidase.

**Table III: Design of OmpA and pKK plasmids for expression of Recombinant Heparinase in *E. coli***

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| <b>Omp A secretion Expression system</b> |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |
| N  | Gly | Ile | Gln | Lys | Thr | Ala | Arg      |
| XXX                                      | GGA | ATT | CAG | AAA | ACT | GCC | AGA      |
| XXX                                      | CCT | TAA | GTC | TTT | TGA | CTT | ACT      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | End      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     | C   |          |
| GGATCCXXX                                |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |
| CCTAGGXXX                                |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |
| Bam HI                                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |
| EcoRI                                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |
| <b>pKK over-Expression system</b>        |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |
| N  | Met | Lys | Lys | Ala | Arg | End |          |
| XXX                                      | Taa | CCC | GGG | ATG | AAA | AAA | ---      |
| XXX                                      | ATT | GGC | CCC | TAC | TTT | TTT | ---      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | CGG      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | TCT      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | ATC      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | TTC      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | GAA      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | GGC      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | XXX      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | XXX      |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |     | Hind III |

#### RNA Dot Blot Assay

The total cellular RNA was immobilized onto a Zeta probe™ membrane (Biorad, Richmond, CA) by alkaline RNA denaturation and fixation, and probed using the 600 base PCR product, used in screening for the heparinase gene. The hybridization was carried out with dot blot apparatus in accordance with the method of Thomas, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 77:5201 (1980). The RNA signal under different growth conditions has been investigated by Galliher, et al., *Eur. J. Appl. Microbiol.* (1982). It was established by those studies that heparinase at the protein level is optimally expressed under low sulphur conditions, which removes the requirement of heparin for induction. Heparinase mRNA signal under low sulphur growth conditions was therefore studied with and without heparin induction.

Both the OmpA and the pKK systems expressed heparinase. The OmpA system did not efficiently transport heparinase to the periplasm. For reasons not known, a large fraction of recombinant heparinase was retained in the cytoplasmic region along with the Omp A signal sequence. At lower temperatures (25°-30°C) of growth, there was some secretion into the periplasmic space.

The pKK overproduction system produced heparinase only in the periplasmic space. The pKK system used the native *F.heparinum* heparinase leader sequence in which there was no problem with the transport of the recombinant protein with a foreign leader sequence. The pKK system expressed heparinase without any aberrant processing, although the expression was again optimal at lower temperatures. The presence of heparinase in the periplasm was confirmed by western blotting and by comparing *in situ* tryptic digest of the recombinant heparinase with that of the native heparinase, in terms

of the peak profiles and some peaks which were isolated and sequenced.

A positive signal was obtained for the isolated *F. heparinum* mRNA using the 600 basepair probe derived from the PCR which has been used for isolating the heparinase gene, confirming that the gene isolated was a *F. heparinum* gene cloned in *E. coli*.

The expressed heparinase appeared to have at least some heparinase activity.

The sequence can be modified to alter specific enzymatic activity or binding specificity or affinity by substitution of one or more amino acids, using site directed mutagenesis or substitution of oligomers into the sequence encoding the heparinase. Methods and materials to accomplish this are known to those skilled in the art. The modified gene is then expressed and the product routinely screened for the altered activity.

Although described with reference to two specific expression systems, other expression systems are well known and commercially available. The heparinase gene can be expressed in these systems, using similar vectors and signal peptides or leader sequences.

Modifications and variations of the present invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art. Such modifications and variations are intended to come within the scope of the following claims.

## SEQUENCE LISTING

## (1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: Massachusetts Institute, of Technology
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: The Heparinase Gene from Flavobacterium Heparinum
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 2
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:  
(A) ADDRESSEE: Kilpatrick & Cody  
(B) STREET: 1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800  
(C) CITY: Atlanta  
(D) STATE: Georgia  
(E) COUNTRY: US  
(F) ZIP: 30309-4530
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:  
(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk  
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible  
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS  
(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:  
(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:  
(B) FILING DATE:  
(C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (vii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:  
(A) NAME: Pabst, Patrea L.  
(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 31,284  
(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: MIT5546

## (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

(A) TELEPHONE: 404-815-6508  
(B) TELEFAX: 404-815-6555

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 1379 base pairs  
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid  
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single  
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

(A) ORGANISM: Flavobacterium heparinum

## (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| CCCTTTTGGGA GCAAAGGCAG AACCATCTCC GAACAAAGGC AGAACCCAGCC TGTAACACAGA | 60  |
| CAGCAATTCA TCCGCTTTCA ACCAAAGTGA AAGCATTTAA TACAATACCA GAATGTCGCA    | 120 |
| TTTCCCTTTC AGCGTACTTT TTGGGTAAAT AACCAATAAA AACTAAAGAC GGATGAAAAA    | 180 |
| ACAAATTCTA TATCTGATTG TACTTCAGCA ACTGTTCCCTC TGTTCCGGCTT ACGCCCCAGCA | 240 |
| AAAAAAATCC GGTAACATCC CTTACCGGGT AAATGTGCAG GCCGACAGTG CTAAGCAGAA    | 300 |
| GGCGATTATT GACAACAAAT GGGTGGCAGT AGGCATCAAT AAACCTTATG CATTACAATA    | 360 |

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420 TGACGATAAA CTGGGCTTTA ATGGAAAACC ATCCTATCGC TTGAGCTTA AAGCCGAAGA  
480 CAATTCGCTT GAAGGTTATG CTGCAGGAGA AACAAAGGC CGTACAGAAT TGTCTGTACAG  
540 CTATGCAACC ACCAATGATT TTAAGAAATT TCCCCCAAGC GTATACCAAA ATGCGCAAAA  
600 GCTAAAACC GTTTATCATT ACGGCAAAGG GATTGTGAA CAGGGGAGCT CCCGCAGCTA  
660 TACCTTTTCA GTGTACATAC CCTCCTCCTT CCCCAGACAAT GCGACTACTA TTTTGTGCCC  
720 ATGGCATGGT GCACCCAGCA GAACGCTTGT AGCTACACCA GAGGGAGAAA TTAAAACACT  
780 GAGCATAGAA GAGTTTGTGG CTTATATACGA CCGCATGATC TTCAAAAAAA ATATCGCCCA  
840 TGATAAAGTT GAAAAAAAG ATAAGGACGG AAAAATTACT TATGTAGCCG GAAAGCCAAA  
900 TGGCTGGAAG GTAGAACAAG GTGGTTATCC CACGCTGGCC TTTGGTTTTT CTAAAGGGTA  
960 TTTTACATC AAGGCAAACT CCGACCGGCA GTGGCTTACC GACAAAGCCG ACCGTAAACA  
1020 TGCCCAATCCC GAGAATAGTG AAGTAATGAA GCCCTATTCC TCGGAATACA AAACCTCAAC  
1080 CATTCCTAT AAAATGCCCT TTGCCCCAGTT CCTAAAGAT TGCTGGATTA CTTTGTATGT  
1140 CGCCATAGAC TGGACGAAAT ATGGAAAAGA GGCCAATACA ATTTTGAAAC CCGGTAAGCT  
1200 GGATGTGATG ATGACTTATA CCAAGAATAA GAAACCACAA AAAGCGCATA TCGTAAACCA  
1260 GCAGGAAATC CTGATCGGAC GTAACGATGA CGATGGCTAT TACTTCAAAT TTGGAATTTA  
1320 CAGGTCGGT AACAGCACGG TCCCGGTTAC TTATAACCTG AGCGGGTACA GCGAAACTGC  
1379 CAGATAGCAA AAGCCCTAAG CGCATCCGAT AGGCTTTTC TTATATTAC AATAAAAT

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:



-23-

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 384 amino acids  
 (B) TYPE: amino acid  
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single  
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: N-terminal

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

(A) ORGANISM: Flavobacterium heparinum

## (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

```

Met Lys Lys Gln Ile Leu Tyr Leu Ile Val Leu Gln Gln Leu Phe Leu
 1      5      10      15

Cys Ser Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Lys Lys Ser Gly Asn Ile Pro Tyr Arg
 20      25      30      35      40      45      50

Val Asn Val Gln Ala Asp Ser Ala Lys Lys Gln Lys Ala Ile Ile Asp Asn
 35      40      45      50      55      60      65      70      75      80

Lys Trp Val Ala Val Gly Ile Asn Lys Lys Pro Tyr Ala Leu Gln Tyr Asp
 50      55      60      65      70      75      80      85      90      95

Asp Lys Leu Arg Phe Asn Gly Lys Pro Ser Tyr Arg Phe Glu Leu Lys
 65      70      75      80      85      90      95      100      105      110

Ala Glu Asp Asn Ser Leu Glu Gly Tyr Ala Ala Gly Glu Thr Lys Gly
 85      90      95      100      105      110      115      120      125      130

```

Arg Thr Glu Leu Ser Tyr Ser Tyr Ala Thr Thr Asn Asp Phe Lys Lys  
 100 105 110  
 Phe Pro Pro Ser Val Tyr Gln Asn Ala Gln Lys Leu Lys Thr Val Tyr  
 115 120 125  
 His Tyr Gly Lys Gly Ile Cys Glu Gln Gly Ser Ser Arg Ser Tyr Thr  
 130 135 140  
 Phe Ser Val Tyr Ile Pro Ser Ser Phe Pro Asp Asn Ala Thr Thr Ile  
 145 150 155 160  
 Phe Ala Gln Trp His Gly Ala Pro Ser Arg Thr Leu Val Ala Thr Pro  
 165 170 175  
 Glu Gly Glu Ile Lys Thr Leu Ser Ile Glu Glu Phe Leu Ala Leu Tyr  
 180 185 190  
 Asp Arg Met Ile Phe Lys Lys Asn Ile Ala His Asp Lys Val Glu Lys  
 195 200 205  
 Lys Asp Lys Asp Gly Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Gly Lys Pro Asn Gly  
 210 215 220  
 Trp Lys Val Glu Gln Gly Tyr Tyr Pro Thr Leu Ala Phe Gly Phe Ser  
 225 230 235 240  
 Lys Gly Tyr Phe Tyr Ile Lys Ala Asn Ser Asp Arg Gln Trp Leu Thr  
 245 250 255  
 Asp Lys Ala Asp Arg Asn Asn Ala Asn Pro Glu Asn Ser Glu Val Met  
 260 265 270  
 Lys Pro Tyr Ser Ser Glu Tyr Lys Thr Ser Thr Ile Ala Tyr Lys Met  
 275 280 285

Pro Phe Ala Gln Phe Pro Lys Asp Cys Trp Ile Thr Phe Asp Val Ala  
290 295  
Ile Asp Trp Thr Lys Tyr Gly Lys Glu Ala Asn Thr Ile Leu Lys Pro  
305 310 315  
Gly Lys Leu Asp Val Met Met Thr Tyr Thr Lys Asn Lys Lys Pro Gln  
325 330 335  
Lys Ala His Ile Val Asn Gln Gln Glu Ile Leu Ile Gly Arg Asn Asp  
340 345  
Asp Asp Gly Tyr Tyr Phe Lys Phe Gly Ile Tyr Arg Val Gly Asn Ser  
355 360 365  
Thr Val Pro Val Thr Tyr Asn Leu Ser Gly Tyr Ser Glu Thr Ala Arg  
370 375 380

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We claim:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule isolated from *Flavobacterium heparinum* encoding heparinase I.

2. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 having the nucleotide sequence (Sequence No. 1, base pairs 173 to 1324, inclusive) consisting essentially of:

|            |  |      |
|------------|--|------|
|            | ATGAAAAA                                     | 180  |
| ACAAATTCTA | TATCTGATTG TACTTCAGCA ACTGTTTCCTC TGTTCGGCTT | 230  |
| ACGCCCAGCA | AAAAAAATCC GGTAACATCC CTTACCGGGT AAATGTGCAG  | 280  |
| GCCGACAGTG | CTAAGCAGAA GGCGATTATT GACAACAAAT GGGTGGCAGT  | 330  |
| AGGCATCAAT | AAACCTTATG CATTACAATA TGACGATAAA CTGCGCTTTA  | 380  |
| ATGGAAAACC | ATCCTATCGC TTTGAGCTTA AAGCCGAAGA CAATTGCGCTT | 430  |
| GAAGGTTATG | CTGCAGGAGA AACAAAGGGC CGTACAGAAT TGTCGTACAG  | 480  |
| CTATGCAACC | ACCAATGATT TTAAGAAATT TCCCCAAGC GTATACCAAA   | 530  |
| ATGCGCAAAA | GCTAAAAACC GTTTATCATT ACGGCAAAGG GATTTGTGAA  | 580  |
| CAGGGGAGCT | CCCGCAGCTA TACCTTTTCA GTGTACATAC CCTCCTCCTT  | 630  |
| CCCCGACAAT | GCGACTACTA TTTTGTCCCA ATGGCATGGT GCACCCAGCA  | 680  |
| GAACGCTTGT | AGCTACACCA GAGGGAGAAA TTAAAACACT GAGCATAGAA  | 730  |
| GAGTTTTTGG | CCTTATACGA CCGCATGATC TTCAAAAAAA ATATCGCCCA  | 780  |
| TGATAAAGTT | GAAAAAAAAG ATAAGGACGG AAAAATTACT TATGTAGCCG  | 830  |
| GAAAGCCAAA | TGGCTGGAAG GTAGAACAAG GTGGTTATCC CACGCTGGCC  | 880  |
| TTTGGTTTTT | CTAAAGGGTA TTTTACATC AAGGCAAACCT CCGACCGGCA  | 930  |
| GTGGCTTACC | GACAAAGCCG ACCGTAACAA TGCCAATCCC GAGAATAGTG  | 980  |
| AAGTAATGAA | GCCCTATTCC TCGGAATACA AAACCTCAAC CATTGCCTAT  | 1030 |
| AAAATGCCCT | TTGCCCAGTT CCCTAAAGAT TGCTGGATTA CTTTTGATGT  | 1080 |
| CGCCATAGAC | TGGACGAAAT ATGGAAAAGA GGCCAATACA ATTTTGAAAC  | 1130 |
| CCGGTAAGCT | GGATGTGATG ATGACTTATA CCAAGAATAA GAAACCACAA  | 1180 |
| AAAGCGCATA | TCGTAAACCA GCAGGAAATC CTGATCGGAC GTAACGATGA  | 1230 |
| CGATGGCTAT | TACTTCAAAT TTGGAATTTA CAGGGTCGGT AACACCACGG  | 1280 |
| TCCCGGTTAC | TTATAACCTG AGCGGGTACA GCGAAACTGC CAGA.       |      |
| 1320       |  |      |

3. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 encoding the amino acid sequence (Sequence No. 2) consisting essentially of:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Met | Lys | Lys | Gln | Ile | Leu | Tyr | Leu | Ile | Val | Leu | Gln | Gln | Leu | Phe |
| 1   |     |     |     |     | 5   |     |     |     | 10  |     |     |     | 15  |     |

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|   |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Leu Cys Ser Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Lys Lys Ser Gly Asn Ile Pro | 20  | 25  | 30  |
| Tyr Arg Val Asn Val Gln Ala Asp Ser Ala Lys Gln Lys Ala Ile | 35  | 40  | 45  |
| Ile Asp Asn Lys Trp Val Ala Val Gly Ile Asn Lys Pro Tyr Ala | 50  | 55  | 60  |
| Leu Gln Tyr Asp Asp Lys Leu Arg Phe Asn Gly Lys Pro Ser Tyr | 65  | 70  | 75  |
| Arg Phe Glu Leu Lys Ala Glu Asp Asn Ser Leu Glu Gly Tyr Ala | 80  | 85  | 90  |
| Ala Gly Glu Thr Lys Gly Arg Thr Glu Leu Ser Tyr Ser Tyr Ala | 95  | 100 | 105 |
| Thr Thr Asn Asp Phe Lys Lys Phe Pro Pro Ser Val Tyr Gln Asn | 110 | 115 | 120 |
| Ala Gln Lys Leu Lys Thr Val Tyr His Tyr Gly Lys Gly Ile Cys | 125 | 130 | 135 |
| Glu Gln Gly Ser Ser Arg Ser Tyr Thr Phe Ser Val Tyr Ile Pro | 140 | 145 | 150 |
| Ser Ser Phe Pro Asp Asn Ala Thr Thr Ile Phe Ala Gln Trp His | 155 | 160 | 165 |
| Gly Ala Pro Ser Arg Thr Leu Val Ala Thr Pro Glu Gly Glu Ile | 170 | 175 | 180 |
| Lys Thr Leu Ser Ile Glu Glu Phe Leu Ala Leu Tyr Asp Arg Met | 185 | 190 | 195 |
| Ile Phe Lys Lys Asn Ile Ala His Asp Lys Val Glu Lys Lys Asp | 200 | 205 | 210 |
| Lys Asp Gly Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Gly Lys Pro Asn Gly Trp | 215 | 220 | 225 |
| Lys Val Glu Gln Gly Gly Tyr Pro Thr Leu Ala Phe Gly Phe Ser | 230 | 235 | 240 |
| Lys Gly Tyr Phe Tyr Ile Lys Ala Asn Ser Asp Arg Gln Trp Leu | 245 | 250 | 255 |
| Thr Asp Lys Ala Asp Arg Asn Asn Ala Asn Pro Glu Asn Ser Glu | 260 | 265 | 270 |
| Val Met Lys Pro Tyr Ser Ser Glu Tyr Lys Thr Ser Thr Ile Ala | 275 | 280 | 285 |

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|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tyr | Lys | Met | Pro | Phe | Ala | Gln | Phe | Pro  | Lys | Asp | Cys | Trp | Ile | Thr |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     | 300 |
|     |     |     |     | 290 |     |     |     |      | 295 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Phe | Asp | Val | Ala | Ile | Asp | Trp | Thr | Lys  | Tyr | Gly | Lys | Glu | Ala | Asn |     |
|     |     |     |     | 305 |     |     |     |      | 310 |     |     |     |     |     | 315 |
| Thr | Ile | Leu | Lys | Pro | Gly | Lys | Leu | Asp  | Val | Met | Met | Thr | Tyr | Thr |     |
|     |     |     |     | 320 |     |     |     |      | 325 |     |     |     |     |     | 330 |
| Lys | Asn | Lys | Lys | Pro | Gln | Lys | Ala | His  | Ile | Val | Asn | Gln | Gln | Glu |     |
|     |     |     |     | 335 |     |     |     |      | 340 |     |     |     |     |     | 345 |
| Ile | Leu | Ile | Gly | Arg | Asn | Asp | Asp | Asp  | Gly | Tyr | Tyr | Phe | Lys | Phe |     |
|     |     |     |     | 350 |     |     |     |      | 355 |     |     |     |     |     | 360 |
| Gly | Ile | Tyr | Arg | Val | Gly | Asn | Ser | Thr  | Val | Pro | Val | Thr | Tyr | Asn |     |
|     |     |     |     | 365 |     |     |     |      | 370 |     |     |     |     |     | 375 |
| Leu | Ser | Gly | Tyr | Ser | Glu | Thr | Ala | Arg. |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     | 380 |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising an expression vector.

5. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising a nucleic acid fragment encoding a signal peptide.

6. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 wherein the signal peptide is encoded by the nucleic acid (Sequence No. 1, base pairs 1 to 172, inclusive) consisting essentially of:

|            |            |            |            |            |     |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----|
| CCTTTTGGGA | GCAAAGGCAG | AACCATCTCC | GAACAAAGGC | AGAACCAGCC | 50  |
| TGTAAACAGA | CAGCAATTCA | TCCGCTTTCA | ACCAAAGTGA | AAGCATTTAA | 100 |
| TACAATACCA | GAATGTCGCA | TTTCCCTTTC | AGCGTACTTT | TTGGGTAAAT | 150 |
| AACCAATAAA | AACTAAAGAC | GA.        |            |            | 180 |

7. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 wherein the signal peptide directs the transport of the protein from the cytoplasm to the periplasm.

8. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a heparinase having binding heparin with a different affinity than the heparinase encoded by Sequence No. 1.

9. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a heparinase having a specific activity different from the specific activity of the heparinase encoded by Sequence No. 1.

10. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a procaryotic cell other than *F. heparinum* which is capable of expressing the molecule.

11. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 11 in a procaryotic cell cultured under low sulfate conditions which is capable of expressing the molecule.





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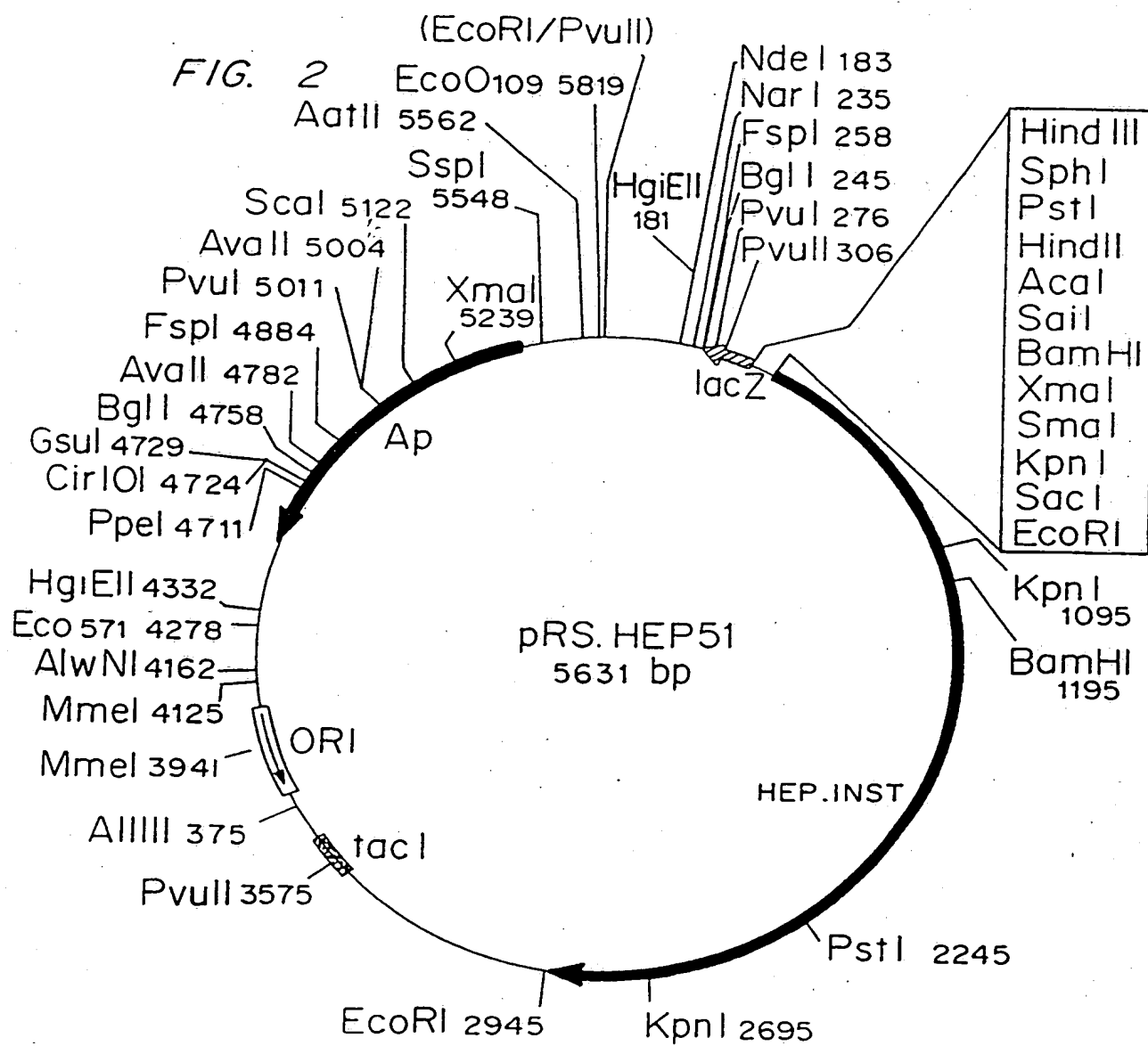
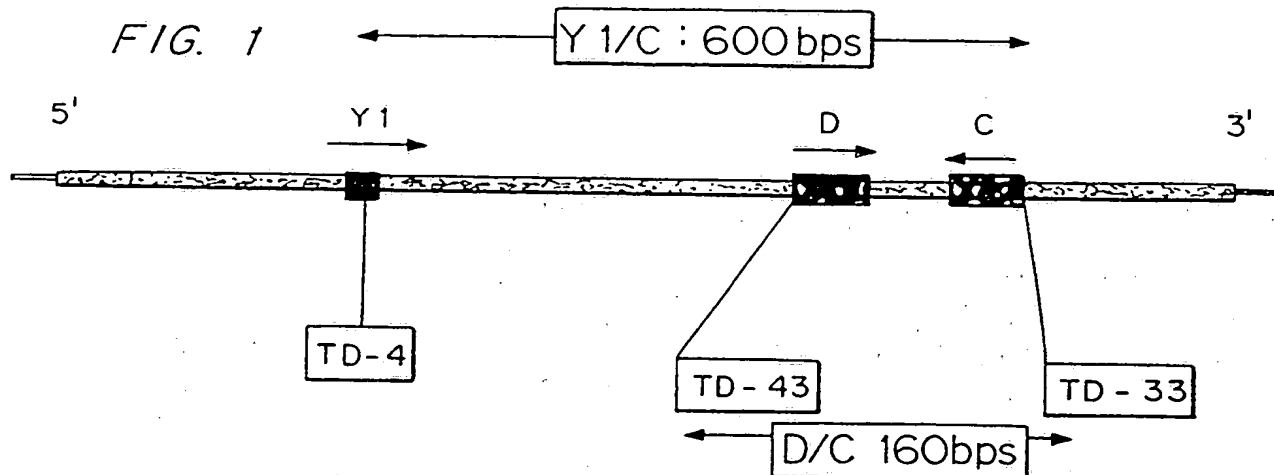
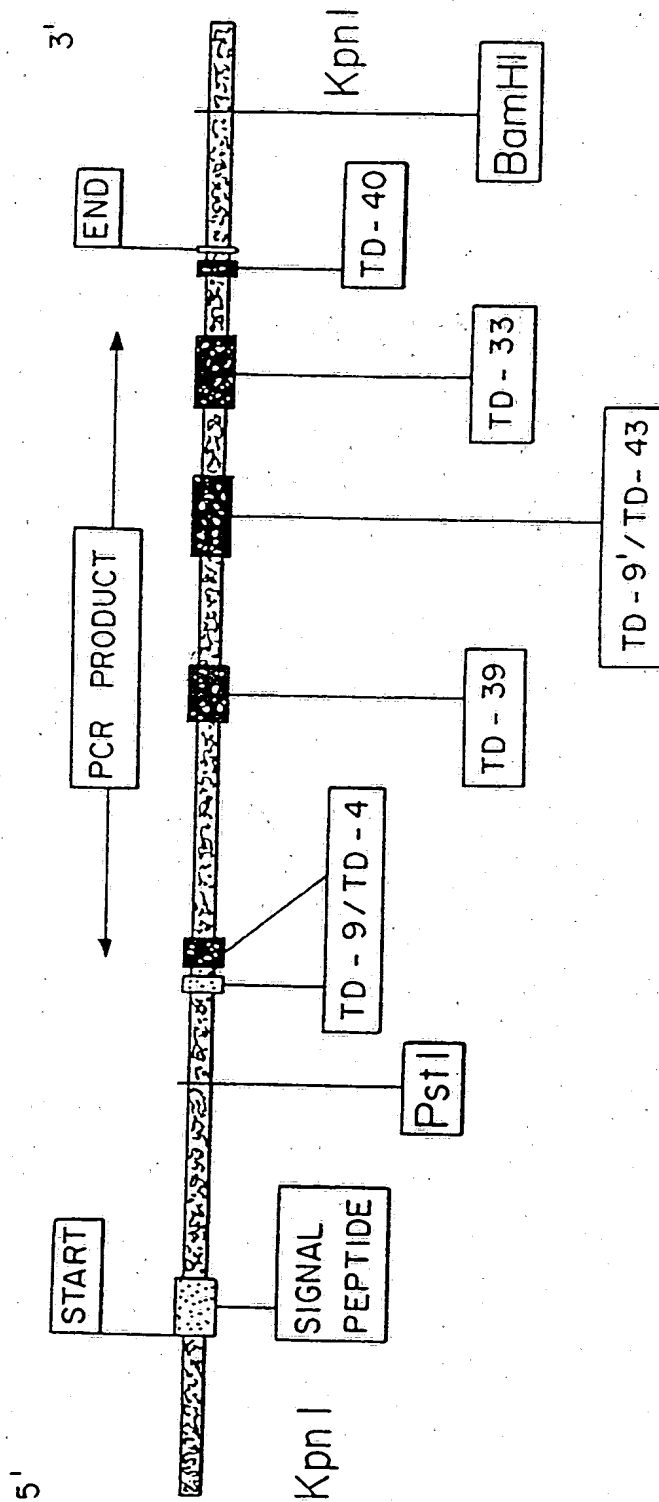




FIG. 3





## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application 1

PCT/US 92/09124

|   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) <sup>6</sup>   |  |                                     |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC   |  |                                     |
| Int.Cl. 5 C12N15/60   |  |                                     |
| <b>II. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>  |  |                                     |
| Minimum Documentation Searched <sup>7</sup>   |  |                                     |
| Classification System   | Classification Symbols   |                                     |
| Int.Cl. 5   | C12N   |                                     |
| Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched <sup>8</sup>  |  |                                     |
|   |  |                                     |
| <b>III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT<sup>9</sup></b>   |  |                                     |
| Category <sup>10</sup>  | Citation of Document, <sup>11</sup> with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages <sup>12</sup>   | Relevant to Claim No. <sup>13</sup> |
| X   | WO,A,8 912 692 (MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)<br>28 December 1989<br>see page 18, line 30 - page 20, line 9<br>---                            | 1-11                                |
| X   | Week 9125,<br>Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB;<br>AN 91-180925<br>& JP,A,3 108 486 (SHINGIJUTSU KAIHATSU) 8<br>May 1991<br>see abstract<br>----- | 1-11                                |
| <p><sup>10</sup> Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p> |  |                                     |
| <b>IV. CERTIFICATION</b>  |  |                                     |
| Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search   | Date of Mailing of this International Search Report  |                                     |
| 19 FEBRUARY 1993  | 09.03.93   |                                     |
| International Searching Authority   | Signature of Authorized Officer  |                                     |
| EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE  | CUPIDO M.  |                                     |

US 9209124  
SA 66558

19/02/93

| Patent document<br>cited in search report | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| WO-A-8912692                              | 28-12-89            | EP-A- 0420894              | 10-04-91            |
|   |                     | JP-T- 3505815              | 19-12-91            |
|   |                     | US-A- 5169772              | 08-12-92            |